

REMARKS

The application has been amended and is believed to be in condition for allowance.

The indication that claim 23 is allowed is gratefully acknowledged. The further indication that claims 18 and 20-21 would be allowed if amended into independent form is acknowledged with thanks.

Amendments to the Disclosure

Claims 18, 20, and 21 are each amended to independent form, incorporating all the recitations of the respective independent claim and any intervening claims.

Claims 12-17 and 19 are canceled, without prejudice.

The claims are further amended with minor revisions as to antecedent basis and style in consideration of U.S. practice and preferences.

New claims 24-36 correspond to previously pending dependent claims 13 and 15-17, and depend from independent claims 18, 20, 21, and 23.

None of the foregoing amendments introduce new matter.

As the foregoing amendments to the claims are responsive to the suggestions of the Office Action indicating allowable subject matter, entry of the amendments is earnestly solicited. Entry of the new dependent claims is also respectfully solicited, as each new dependent claim recites the same subject

matter as a corresponding cancelled dependent claim already examined.

Substantive Issues - Sections 102 and 103

The Official Action rejected claims 12, 14-16, 19 and 22 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by Sher (US 6,478,575; hereinafter, "SHER").

The Official Action rejected claim 13 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over SHER in view of Chen (US 6,135,761).

The Official Action rejected claim 17 under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over SHER in view of Lei (US 6,039,561).

In response, it is respectfully submitted that claims 18, 20 and 21 have been amended, as indicated above. Based on the Official Action's indication of allowable subject matter, it is respectfully submitted that the rejections under Sections 102 and 103 have been rendered moot.

It is further respectfully submitted that all the claims depending from claims 18, 20, 21, and 23 are patentable at least for depending from a patentable parent claim.

Reconsideration and allowance of the claims are respectfully requested.

From the foregoing, it will be apparent that Applicant has fully responded to the March 19, 2009 Official Action and that the claims as presented are patentable. In view of this,

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the claims, as presented, and their early passage to issue.

Charge the fee of \$220 for the one independent claim added herewith, to our credit card.

In order to expedite the prosecution of this case, the Examiner is invited to telephone the attorney for Applicant at the number set forth below if the Examiner is of the opinion that further discussion of this case would be helpful in advancing prosecution.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 25-0120 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17.

Respectfully submitted,

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